

S.N. 10/671,909

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the First Action of 25 AUG. 2005 and request reconsideration of the claims, as amended.

The objection to the specification on pages 2-5 of the Office Action is not understood, since the heading "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" is clearly set forth at page 8, line 14. All other applicable headings are also present; neither sequence listings nor computer program listings are required, since the present invention is directed neither to biotechnology nor to computer programs.

ANTICIPATION REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 10 & 13

Claims 1, 2, 10 and 13 were rejected under section 102, as allegedly anticipated by KAISER et al. (USP 5,646,523).

KAISER discloses a sensor arrangement for sensing the absolute value of the rotational position of a steering column c. This structure comprises a housing having a lid or cover 1, a base 10, and a circuit board or carrier 6 which is sandwiched between lid 1 and base 10, as shown in FIG. 1a. On the circuit board 6, there are located Hall sensors 5 for a first single-turn rotary encoder, which is driven directly from steering column c. Thus far, the structure resembles the presently claimed invention. In addition, circuit board 6 also supports further Hall sensors 8 for a second single-turn encoder.

The KAISER circuit board 6 is formed with a central hole, through which there extends a central gear wheel 12 (attached to steering column c). Gear wheel 12 is part of a planetary gear system, as described at column 6, lines 18-38. Central gear wheel 12 meshes with two-stage planetary gear wheels 11, which are mounted on

S.N. 10/671,909

pins or "journals" fixed in floor 10 of the casing (see col. 6, lines 24-26). In turn, planetary wheels 11 engage an internally toothed wheel 7' which is mounted on a "coarse code disk" 7, serving as the "output wheel" of the gearbox, as described at col. 6, line 28 and shown at FIG. 1b.

KAISER does not have "a reduction gear linkage ... arranged annularly around a portion of the shaft" as recited in present claim 1, since FIG. 1b shows that only lid 1 is arranged annularly around the KAISER steering column c. KAISER also does not have "a connecting member extending around the outer periphery of the first single-turn rotary encoder" as now recited in present claim 1.

In KAISER, fine code disk 2 and circuit board 6 together form the "first single-turn rotary encoder" and they inherently have "an outer periphery" but arranged around that periphery are only the housing with its lid portion 1 and base portion 10. There is no driving "connecting member" as recited in claim 1.

KAISER fails to provide any suggestion of the innovative and economical structure recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, clearly patentably defines over the KAISER structure. The advantages of the present invention's innovative structure are set forth at specification page 4, last paragraph, through the end of page 6. The section 102 rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the additional features now recited in main claim 1, the rejections (on Office Action page 7) of dependent claims 2, 10, and 13 are now mooted. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102 rejection of claims 2, 10 and 13 are solicited.

S.N. 10/671,909

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT-MATTER

Dependent claims 3-9 and 11-12 were indicated to contain allowable subject-matter. In view of the amendment to claim 1, it is not believed necessary to rewrite these claims in independent form, since claim 1 clearly contains allowable subject-matter, and the dependent claims further specify the basic structure recited in main claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and explanations, it is respectfully submitted that main claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-13, are now clear, and patentably define over KAISER, BIELSKI, BOSE, FLESCH, and the other art of record, taken singly or in combination.

If the Examiner detects any remaining informalities, or wishes to make any suggestions to place the application in condition for allowance, a telephone call to Applicant's counsel is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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7

7